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*A return showing (a) the number of cases of bubonic plague which have been reported as occurring in the colony of Hongkong, from January 1, 1899, to the date hereof, and (b) the number of deaths therefrom during the same period.*

Number of cases reported up till noon of August 7, 1899, 1,359 ; number of cases reported during the past twenty-four hours, 3 ; total number of cases reported to date, 1,362. Number of deaths reported up till noon of August 7, 1899, 1,298 ; number of deaths reported during the past twenty-four hours, 3 ; total number of deaths recorded to date, 1,301.

JAMES A. LAWSON,  
*Acting General Medical Officer of Health.*

[Inclosure.]

*Weekly abstract.*

SANITARY BOARD ROOM, *August 8, 1899.*

Week ended.	Cases.	Deaths.	Week ended.	Cases.	Deaths.
1899.			1899.		
January 1.....	1	1	May 20.....	87	70
March 4.....	5	5	May 27.....	143	134
March 11.....	6	5	June 3.....	92	97
March 18.....	6	6	June 10.....	97	91
March 25.....	3	3	June 17.....	109	117
April 1.....	7	7	June 24.....	148	138
April 8.....	19	16	July 1.....	142	144
April 15.....	10	4	July 8.....	100	98
April 22.....	31	31	July 15.....	64	65
April 29.....	28	34	July 22.....	30	32
May 6.....	64	52	July 29.....	37	39
May 13.....	89	69	August 5.....	29	29

CUBA.

*Sanitary reports from Cienfuegos, Casilda, Santa Cruz, and Tunas de Zaza.*

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *September 11, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended September 9, 21 deaths have occurred in Cienfuegos, 5 from malaria, and 3 from intestinal diseases; no contagious diseases reported in this city.

During the week, 14 vessels were inspected on arrival, and 10 on departure.

*Casilda.*—Dr. A. Cantero, reports 20 deaths in Trinidad and Casilda during the week, 3 from malaria, and 1 from intestinal disease; the regular inspection of vessels is continued at this port.

*Santa Cruz.*—Dr. J. R. Xiques, reports 1 death in that port, but no infectious disease; 9 vessels were inspected during the week.

*Tunas de Zaza.*—Dr. Francisco Ravella reports that the work at this station has gone on as usual; no contagious diseases reported.

Respectfully, yours,

J. M. LINDSLEY,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Disinfection of Havana mail for the United States.*

HAVANA, CUBA, *September 7, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that all mail matter from Havana for our southern States is disinfected.

In the absence of apparatus, this is accomplished in the following manner :

Letter mail is disinfected as it arrives at the post-office. Each letter is done separately. The corner of the envelope is cut, and 3 or 4 drops of formalin (40 per cent) are dropped in. The letters are then placed in a pouch containing formalin, and from time to time more formalin is sprinkled into the pouch. When the pouch has enough mail, it is sealed and not opened until it arrives in Tampa, which insures at least twenty-four hours' exposure. One clerk is able to disinfect all southern mail by this method as it arrives, and, therefore, it is not delayed.

Mail to northern points by way of Tampa or Miami and opened in the South by the Railway Mail Service is disinfected by sprinkling formalin in the sack and over the mail. The bundles are opened and shaken up so that the letters lie loose in the sack. These are also sealed and not opened until reaching Tampa or Miami, which gives them about twenty-four hours' exposure.

Package mail, newspapers and the like, can not be properly disinfected without apparatus, and all mail matter of this character addressed to points south of the southern boundary of Maryland is being held until we can instal and house the disinfecting cylinder.

By permission of General Brooke this cylinder will be put on the harbor front, on Caballeria Wharf, directly in front of the post-office. This situation by long repute enjoys the reputation of being the least infected point along the harbor front.

I have wired Asst. Surg. S. D. Grubbs to come here temporarily to build the plant and organize this mail disinfection. The plant will be in working order in a few days.

Respectfully, yours,

M. J. ROSENAU,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Sanitary report from Havana.*

HAVANA, CUBA, *September 10, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward the usual weekly report for this port.

There has been an increase of yellow fever; a total of 24 new cases, with 3 deaths, were reported during the week; 13 of these cases were soldiers and 11 civilians; 6 of the 11 cases in civilians were Americans.

Five of the cases occurred on the water front, as follows:

(1) The electrician from the U. S. Army transport *Ingals*. He had been ashore, where he undoubtedly contracted the disease. The vessel was disinfected in the parts exposed to the infection by the *Protector* and placed in quarantine.

(2) One of the crew of the schooner lighter *Pizarro*. The man, a Spaniard, had been on the island only three months. The lighter was disinfected. The remaining crew of 2 men being immune, she was not further detained.

(3) A customs-house inspector. This man had been on the *Dauntless*, which sailed for Tampa the day he was taken sick. The quarantine officer there was notified of the facts.

(4) A sailor from the marine barracks at the machina. The barracks were disinfected by this Service, at the request of Admiral Cromwell.

(5) Another case on the *Ingals*, a Spaniard, fireman, who was taken